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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT Conditions/Customs & Traditions/River
Crossings/Fishing/Forestry

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1. In the village of Zhogati [Zohatyn] and in the vicinity of the town of Peremysl [Przemysl] the older men wear hand-sewn work clothes of material woven in the homes. This consists of white or black trousers, a white shirt, tie, coat or jacket, and a hat. The younger men wear factory manufactured work clothes which are of ordinary colors. Their headgear is usually a peaked cap or hat. Overalls are not used even at work.
2. On holidays black or blue suits are worn by the men with a few wearing light colored suits. A white shirt and tie are usually worn. A blue shirt with a turned down collar or an embroidered shirt is also common. The young men wear low cut shoes of various colors, whereas the older men wear boots with stiff uppers. In the winter, top-boots, breeches and jackets are the customary apparel. Many older farmers in winter can be seen wearing long sheepskin coats and top boots.
3. All the women's clothes are factory made, and of various colors. Bright combinations of red, white, and blue predominate. The usual garb is a skirt, blouse, and a kerchief or shawl. Older women tie the shawl under their chin, while the younger women tie it behind their heads.
4. On holidays the women dress mostly in "city clothes," wearing dresses. Heads are usually bared, except older women who wear kerchiefs or shawls. All wear low shoes and stockings.
5. Special state holidays are not celebrated in the villages. However, when state celebrations do take place, they occur for the most part in cities and towns but the general public does not participate in them. The most important traditional holidays are Christmas and Easter.
6. The easiest method of meeting people is at church or on the way to church, on holidays and on Sundays. People are encountered in the fields, forests and on the roads in the early morning hours. Transportation is by carts, drawn by one or two horses or by bicycle.
7. The prevalent language in the Zohatyn and Przemysl areas is Ukrainian. However, in some sections Polish is spoken. Upon meeting someone, if it is an older person, one greets the other with the words, "Glory be to Jesus Christ," and one greets a younger person with a "Good day."

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- d) The fourth one is at Volodun.
 - e) The next crossing is at the village of Seliska, only four kilometers from the preceding one.
 - f) At a distance of five kilometers there is another crossing, at a Polish village, Dombrovka Stazhenska.
 - g) There is still another crossing at a distance of three kilometers at the village of Bartkovka.
 - h) The next crossing is at Bakhuzhets.
 - i) In the Przemysl vicinity there are two crossings, one at the village of Ruske Selo, and the other at Uskan.
16. There used to have a wooden bridge over the San River at Uskan, but it was destroyed during the Polish-Soviet war in 1939 and never restored. In its stead a ferry was built.
 17. There is a crossing at the little town of Babitse, one in Konivcha, one at the village of Krasieni, and another near Przemysl at the village of Pralkovtse. The next crossing is a bridge in the city of Przemysl.
 18. The locations of the above mentioned river crossings are listed in order starting from the upper reaches of the San River, i.e., from Sanok and proceeding in a northeasterly direction to Przemysl. The longest distance between the individual crossings does not exceed 10 kilometers and every crossing is provided with several small and large boats.
 19. Fishing has been greatly developed in the Przemysl and Zohatyn vicinities and practically everyone fishes. Fishing permits and fishing cards must be obtained. In spite of that, although illegally, all the villagers fish and when caught they pay fines for doing so. Ordinary fishing rods made of bamboo stems are used, but most fishing is done with large nets, the ends of which are attached to two boats and lowered into the water. This method is mostly widely practiced because it yields the largest catches. In addition to this method, special baskets woven of cane with a large opening are used. They are made so that fish can enter the basket, but cannot get out. The baskets are fastened to stones and are lowered into the water to remain for two or three days, then pulled out. This method is usually used by those who fish without a license.
 20. The San River does not have a great variety of fish. The most popular is the carp, "karas" [first cousin to the carp], "petruga" [a fish similar to eel], and pike. Most abundant are the carp and the "karas." Petrugas are more abundant in the mountainous stretch of the San River.
 21. Whenever the water is very low in the mountainous stretch of the San, the people catch the fish with their hands - mostly the petrugas.
 22. In every locality, along the San River, the same kind of boats are used - large boats for carrying sand and stones, and boats at the ferries holding 10 persons. Small boats seating four persons are owned by nearly every farmer who lives near the river. In addition, there are canoes for sport, seating one or two persons. Poles are usually used for propelling these boats, while other boats and canoes have oars which are fastened to the boat by metal hinges.

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23. The boats are generally kept at the crossings. They are pulled over to the side of the river for the night, near the ferryman's house, and are tied by a piece of chain or wire to an iron or wooden stake which is driven into the ground. Many of the boats are often locked with a padlock and the keys are kept with the ferryman. The boats are always locked as soon as they are fastened or hooked to the stake, lest the water carry them away. Canoes and small boats are beached and are also kept locked. The oars and poles are hidden or locked with chains as it is not customary to leave the oars near the boats. These methods of taking care of boats are prevalent in the entire region of the San River and of other large rivers.
24. Beginning with the territory around the Carpathian mountains, which is most heavily forested, forests stretch without a break up to the city of Lvov. Although there are glades, nowhere are they big enough to constitute a division between one forest and another. The glades are always connected by forested gorge through which a large number of persons can safely pass in broad daylight.
25. There is a large expanse of forest in the sub-Carpathian region amounting to hundreds of thousands of hectares. In the Sanok and Baligród region, the forests also cover hundreds of thousands of hectares. At Przemyśl a large expanse of forest approximately 50 thousand hectares is connected by a narrow strip of wooded land, four kilometers wide, with another large extended area of forests in the Yaroslav region, stretching into the Lvov region. Another expanse of forest stretches from the Carpathian region, along the mountains, to the Stanisław region and Suchul.
26. As the terrain is densely wooded it is possible to cross these areas when closely pursued. However, one must be guided by a special map or enlist the services of a guide for this forested area. Guides will gladly help and assist one who is not an enemy either for an idea or for money. It is possible to exist in the forests for some time. The supply of water is frequent and plentiful. The majority of the forests are rich in mushrooms and all sorts of berries.
27. Sojourn in and passage through these woods is particularly easy, because almost all expanse of forest is situated from highways and the forestry industry is undeveloped. The population living near the woods is very poor and very glad to offer its service for a very modest remuneration.

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